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*Admitted only in Maryland *Admitted only in Virginia •Practice Limited to Federal Agencies

January 16, 2004

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Art Unit: 1732

Examiner: Staicovici, S.

Confirmation No.: 2369

Commissioner for Patents PO Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Re:

U.S. Utility Patent Application

Application No. 09/843,748; Filed: April 30, 2001

For: Soft Tip Guiding Catheter and Method of Fabrication

Inventor: Our Ref:

Thierry H. Benjamin 1737.1750001/ALF

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for appropriate action are the following documents:

- 1. Reply to Interview Summary; and
- 2. One (1) return postcard.

It is respectfully requested that the attached postcard be stamped with the date of filing of these documents, and that it be returned to our courier. In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned.

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Commissioner for Patents January 16, 2004 Page 2

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

Albert L. Ferro

Attorney for Applicant Registration No. 44,679

ALF/awt Enclosures

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Thierry H. Benjamin

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Examiner: Staicovici, Stefan

Atty. Docket: P640 DIV (1737.1750001)

Reply to Interview Summary

Commissioner for Patents PO Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with MPEP Section 713.04 and in Reply to the Interview Summary mailed December 17, 2003, Applicant provides a summary of the interview. Examiner Staicovici called Applicant's representative and stated that a terminal disclaimer may be required because the Preliminary Amendment incorporated subject matter based on the allowable subject matter from the parent application. Applicant's representative stated that the subject matter of the amendment had existed in the claims of the parent application prior to the restriction requirement, therefore a terminal disclaimer was not proper due to the restriction requirement in the parent case. In a return telephone call, the Examiner agreed that a terminal disclaimer was not required.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

Albert L. Ferro

Attorney for Applicant Registration No. 44,679

January 16, 2004

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